

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9
En 8627n

THE RUST BUSTER

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
MAY 8 - 1934 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture



AN IMPORTANT "ROUND-UP"

(See last page
for story)

THE MONTANA RUST BUSTER

May 1, 1934

A circular letter for Montana school folk. Issued in the interests of better plant health by the

BARBERRY ERADICATION OFFICE
Lewis Hall, State College
Bozeman, Montana.

George C. Mayoue,
Associate Pathologist,
Leader, District No. 1.

Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Disease Eradication and Control, Barberry Eradication.

"HARD LINES"

--poems about the barberry

Many poems about the common barberry have been received from Rust Busters throughout the State. In the next Rust Buster paper we will print the best such poem written by a Montana school boy or girl. Send your verses to the Barberry Eradication Office.

This spring's selection, given below, was written by Pryde Lenahan, Grade 6, of the Winston, Montana, school taught by Miss Emma Tayne:

THE BARBERRY BUSH

The Barberry Bush has leaves of green-
Though seldom around this country it's
seen-

With dark red berries of an oblong
shape,

It grows at times by a river or lake.
It destroys the wheat, barley and rye,
And many people wonder why.

It grows from eight to ten feet,
This plant is mighty hard to beat.
The leaves have very spiny edges--
Some people have the things as hedges.
If you see this plant, "Report",
That is--if you want to be a sport.

--Pryde Lenahan

Report common barberry bushes to address given above.

MONTANA'S RUST BUSTERS MAKE 1933 RECORD YEAR

Montana Rust Busters had a record year in 1933 when they helped locate and destroy 535 rust-spreading barberries, reported one of the largest areas of escaped or "wild" bushes ever found in the State, and as a result more than doubled the number of their life members--those who have won medal badges and certificates--according to George C. Mayoue, leader of the fight against rust-spreading barberries in Montana.

Some Rust Busters found only one or two bushes while others found many. Largest group of all was reported by Mary Wegner, of Absarokee (see story on back page). But whether they found one bush or many, each one received a medal and certificate, said Mr. Mayoue.

Rust Buster records for Montana show that school boys and girls have helped to report 827 rust-spreading barberries. "Good work", writes Mr. Fletcher, head of all Rust Buster Clubs in the United States.

HELLO, STRANGER!

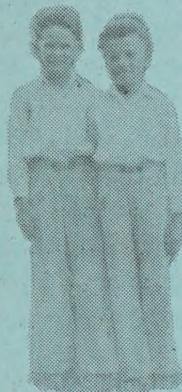
You, too, may win a badge and certificate by reporting common barberries. Ask your teacher more about it or write to the Barberry Eradication Office, Lewis Hall, State College, Bozeman, Montana.

MEET THE GANG! HERE ARE SOME OF MONTANAS RUST BUSTERS AND THEIR LEADERS

Below: ALMOST TWINS, but not quite, are Walter (left) and Robert Mylan, brothers, of Billings.



Left: ORVILLE WALKER, Billings, looks as though he is doing some scheming--more barberries, perhaps?



100 PER CENT FAMILY of Rust Busters at Gibson's, of Bear Creek school, Cameron. Here they are --Rebecca, Homer, Claude, Helen, and Clyde. Right >>>



IVAR TWILDE, ASSISTANT STATE LEADER of Montana Rust Busters and the fight against rust-spreading barberries.



LOOKIN' STRAIGHT AT YOU is Alice Adele Battershell, of Clancey, another Rust Buster.



PROF. H. E. MORRIS, "PLANT DOCTOR" for the State College at Bozeman as well as Rust Buster adviser.

RUST BUSTER STAGES "ROUND-UP"

GIRL REPORTS ONE OF BIGGEST BUNCHES OF WILD BARBERRIES EVER FOUND IN MONTANA

by Jay Odney

This is the story of the girl on the cover--the story of Mary Wegner, her pony "Bugs" and their "barberry round-up".

One might say that Mary staged the biggest "one-man barberry round-up" that Montana has ever seen. She started the clean-up of one of the largest areas of rust-spreading barberries ever found in Montana; and her round-up brought work for the men who were needed to help finish the job of corraling all the "wild" barberries in the county. But now I'm getting ahead of my story--that part comes later.

The Wegner family lives in the rich farming valley of the Stillwater River. Their farm is near the town of Absarokee. Each spring and summer it is Mary's job--I should say Mary's and Bugs'--to hunt the cows. But last spring while she was hunting the cows for her father, Mary was doing some hunting for herself.

HEARS ABOUT BARBERRIES

A month before, Ivar Twilde, from the Montana State College, had visited the Spring Creek school and told the pupils about the common barberry bushes that spread black stem rust and damage the grain crops. Mary had also heard him tell how the farmers now are trying to get rid of these harmful bushes that people once planted on their farms and in towns. And so, Mary was thinking about barberries as well as cows as she went for the herd each day.

One evening she came upon a 100-foot hedge of barberries on the bank of the Stillwater River near the site of an old abandoned farmhouse. Mary nearly forgot about the cows and everything else as she hurried home to tell about her discovery. She insisted that her father report it at once to the Barberry Eradication Office at the State College, Bozeman. And soon Mary received her medal badge and certificate signed by the Governor of Montana.

(continued in next column)

* CLAIM MOST RUST BUSTERS *
*
* Claim to being Montana's No. 1 Rust *
* Buster school is made by Bear Creek, of *
* Cameron, taught by Miss Edith Schoenek. *
* Seven pupils have reported barberries. *
* And on top of that they have a 100 per *
* cent Rust Buster family. *
* Bear Creek's 100 per cent family has *
* five members--Helen, Rebecca, Clyde, *
* Claude, and Homer Gibson--each one of *
* whom has found barberries. Not to be *
* outdone, Melborne and Kenneth Storey, *
* cousins, set to work and found escaped *
* barberries growing more than a mile *
* from the bushes the others had found. *
* And now each one is trying to find *
* bushes and make it a 100 per cent *
* school.

BRINGS WORK FOR MEN

That isn't all of the story, however, because when Mr. Twilde went out to destroy the bushes he discovered many more; in fact there were so many that he hired eight men who needed work to help him find and destroy the "wild" barberries that were growing along the river and irrigation ditches for several miles around. Many of the bushes and seedlings were found under trees where birds had dropped the seeds. When the snow came last fall and men stopped working more than 516 rust-spreading barberries, besides those reported by Mary, had been found and destroyed.

If there were more space in this paper I would tell you more about what this "round-up" of rust-spreading barberries meant to the people of Mary's community; how, for the farmers, it meant protection from black stem rust, the disease that destroys wheat, oats, barley, and rye; how it meant food and clothing for the families of the men who needed work. This too, is part of the story told by the pictures on the front cover.

And, who knows, maybe it meant an extra quart of oats for "Bugs" that day.